

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-12 ADP-00 RSR-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 OMB-01 AID-20 DPW-01 SCA-01 /113 W

----- 128948

R 22051 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

INFO RUEHC/ SECSTATE WASHDC 9312

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 4146

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: SREF, PFOR, PK, BG

SUBJECT: ROUND UP OF BENGALLEES IN KARACHI

FOLL TEL SENT ACTION AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD INFO AMCONSUL LAHORE
FROM AMCONSUL KARACHI MAY 17 REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO:

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KARACHI 0786

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: SREF, PFOR, PK, BG

SUBJECT: ROUND UP OF BENGALLEES IN KARACHI

REF: A) KARACHI 0763 B) KARACHI 0736 C) ISLAMABAD 3855

BEGIN SUMMARY: LOCAL BENGALLEE AND AMERICAN MISSIONARY
ACTIVE IN KARACHI BENGALLEE RELIEF EFFORT HAVE PROVIDED
EMBOFF WITH SOME DETAILS AND ATMOSPHERICS ABOUT MAY 5-6

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ROUND UP OF BENGALLEES IN KARACHI AND AFTERMATH. LITTLE
LOCAL REACTION TO ROUND UP APPARENT WITH EXCEPTION BENGALLEE
COMMUNITY, WHICH GROWS DAILY MORE ANXIOUS. END SUMMARY.

1. CLOSE BENGALIEE FRIEND OF CONGENOFF PROVIDED FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON DETENTION OF KARACHI BENGALIEES IN CONVERSATION MAY 15:

A. SOURCE EMPHASIZED THAT CIRCUMSTANCES OF ROUND UP DESIGNED GENERATE MAXIMUM FEAR AMONG DETAINEES, FAMILIES, WITH ARMED POLICE APPEARING ON DOORSTEPS EARLY HOURS MAY 6 AND MERELY TELLING BENGALIEE PRINCIPALS " CHELO", OFFERING NO REASSURANCE OR EXPLANATION TO FAMILIES. MANY FAMILIES DID NOT LEARN WHERE DETAINEES TAKEN UNTIL THREE DAYS AFTER ARRESTS.

B. NUMBER AND RATIONALE FOR CHOICE OF THOSE ROUNDED UP STILL UNCLEAR. APPEARS MOST BUT NOT ALL PERSONNEL IN SOME CATEGORIES, SUCH AS CLASS ONE OFFICERS, DETAINED, BUT A FEW IN EACH CATEGORY REMAIN FREE. DETAINEES RANGE FROM A PIA COOK TO A UNITED BANK LIMITED VICE PRESIDENT. SOURCE, WHO HAS TWICE VISITED BORSTAL DETENTION CENTER AT LANDHI, ESTIMATES THAT APPROXIMATELY ONE HUNDRED BENGALIEE DETAINEES THERE. HE STATED HE UNDERSTOOD THAT HANDFUL OF THOSE PICKED UP HAD BEEN RELEASED AFTER SIGNING A " PERSONAL BOND" THAT THEY WOULD MAKE THEMSELVES AVAILABLE FOR QUESTIONING AS NECESSARY. (COMMENT: IF THIS TRUE, IT MIGHT HELP EXPLAIN DISCREPANCY BETWEEN 126 REPORTEDLY PICKED UP AND 89 WHOSE NAMES ACTUALLY APPEAR ON LIST, MENTIONED REF A.

C. DETAINEES' FAMILIES BEING ALLOWED VISIT PRINCIPALS AT LANDHI ONLY ON RECEIPT PERMISSION FROM GOS HOME SECRETARY. SEPARATE PERMISSION MUST BE REQUESTED FOR EACH DETAINEE AND FOR EACH VISIT. EFFORTS REPORTEDLY UNDER WAY TO PERSUADE HOME SECRETARY ISSUE BLANKET PERMISSION FOR FAMILY VISITS.

D. SOME FAMILIES OF DETAINEES, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN LALUKHET NEIGHBORHOOD OF KARACHI AND THOSE WHICH NOW HAVE NO ADULT MALE IN HOUSEHOLD, REPORT INCREASED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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HARASSMENT BY NEIGHBORS, POLICE, AND INTELLIGENCE AUTHORITIES. THOSE WHO HAVE SOUGHT MOVE TO OTHER QUARTERS HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED OBTAIN PERMISSION FROM HOME SECRETARY BEFORE SHIFTING.

E. CONDITIONS AT BORSTAL INSTITUTION NOT BAD, SOURCE REPORTS. HE STATED THAT 28 MEN ARE HELD IN EACH LARGE ROOM, EACH WITH FOUR OVERHEAD FANS. PRISONERS GIVEN TWO MEALS PER DAY, EGG AND CHAPATTI IN MORNING, MEAT, VEGETABLE, CHAPATTI IN AFTERNOON. FAMILIES HAVE BEEN ALLOWED BRING THEM CLOTHING, TOILET ARTICLES. SOME JUVENILE INMATES OF INSTITUTION ARE SAID STILL TO BE

HOUSED THERE, AND CONSTRUCTION ADDITIONAL QUARTERS
REPORTEDLY UNDER WAY.

F. SOURCE EMPHASIZED THAT UNCERTAINTY ABOUT FUTURE
MAIN WORRY BOTH OF DETAINEES AND FAMILIES AND OF LOCAL
BENGALEES WHO REMAIN AT LARGE.

2. ACTING POLOFF SPOKE MAY 16 WITH JAMES WILMOT OF
CHURCH WORLD SERVICE, CURRENTLY ACTIVE IN INTER- AID
COMMITTEE (IAC) PROVIDING RELIEF TO APPROXIMATELY 20,000
BENGALEES IN KARACHI. WILMOT MADE FOLLOWING COMMENTS
ABOUT RECENT DETENTIONS:

A. FROM VIEWPOINT OF RELIEF EFFORTS, DETENTION OF
NINE OF FOURTEEN DOCTORS WHO HAD BEEN PROVIDING MEDICAL
SERVICES TO IAC SERIOUS BLOW. ICRC IS REPORTEDLY
TRYING TO PERSUADE GOVERNMENT RELEASE DOCTORS, POINTING OUT
THAT THEY ONLY SOURCE MEDICAL AID WHICH GOVERNMENT HAD
FORMERLY PROVIDED WHILE BENGALEES WAEN# DOWN GOVERNMENT

EMPLOY. ICRC NOT HOPEFUL OF OUTCOME THIS APPEAL. RELIEF
GROUP PROVIDING HALF GOVERNMENT MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE TO
FAMILIES OF A FEW DETAINEES, AND WILMOT FEARS OTHER
FAMILIES MAY SOON NEED HELP BECAUSE OF BUREAUCRATIC
REQUIREMENT THAT GOVERNMENT ALLOWANCE MAY BE COLLECTED
ONLY BY PRINCIPALS, WHO CURRENTLY UNDER DETENTION.

B. WILMOT CONFIRMED THAT DETAINEES WERE GIVEN
FORM LETTER STATING THEY BEING HELD UNDER DPR FOR
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SECURITY OF COUNTRY FOR PERIOD OF THREE MONTHS. HE
STATED THAT SOME PEONS AND AT LEAST ONE HIGH OFFICIAL HAD
BEEN RELEASED WITHIN FEW DAYS OF DETENTION. UBL
VICE PRESIDENT CITED ABOVE ALLEGEDLY RELEASED ON PAYMENT
BOND OF SEVEN LAKH RUPEES, TWO LAKH PROVIDED BY WIFE,
WHO IS NOT BENGALIEE, AND FIVE PUT UP BY BANK.

C. WILMOT STATED HE THOUGHT IT UNLIKELY THAT FAMILIES
WOULD BE ROUNDED UP, BECAUSE CARING FOR FAMILIES IN
DETENTION CENTER WOULD PROBABLY BE MORE EXPENSIVE TO
REGIME THAN CURRENT MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCES. HE ALSO
MENTIONED VULNERABILITY OF FAMILIES NOW LACKING ADULT MALE
MEMBER AND SAID EFFORTS UNDERWAY TO PLACE ONE MALE
WITH EACH FAMILY SO AFFECTED. INCREASED POLICE
HARASSMENT REPORTED BY MANY BENGALEES, WILMOT SAID.

D. WILMOT PUZZLED ABOUT GOVERNMENT' S MOTIVES FOR
ORDERING DETENTIONS AT THIS TIME, STATING THAT
IN HIS OPINION GOP WOULD LOSE SYMPATHY GENERATED BY
VISIT OF POW WIVES TO U. S., OTHER COUNTRIES. HE

SPECULATED MOVE MIGHT BE RETALIATION FOR OR ATTEMPT
REDUCE BENGALEE ESCAPES FROM COUNTRY, WHICH HE THOUGHT
HAD BEEN INCREASING IN RECENT WEEKS.

3. LITTLE NOTICEABLE LOCAL REACTION TO DETENTIONS. OF
ENGLISH LANGUAGE PUBLICATIONS, ONLY WEEKLY OUTLOOK CAME
OUT STRONGLY AGAINST GOVERNMENT'S ACTION, QUESTIONING
TIMING, MOTIVE, EXPLANATION FOR ROUND UP, AND CALLING
USE OF LOCAL BENGALEES AS PAWNS REPREHENSIBLE. AT LEAST
ONE URDU LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER, HOWEVER, PRAISED
DETENTIONS AND SAID GOVERNMENT'S ACTION SHOULD HAVE
BEEN TAKEN SOONER.
TIGER UNQUOTE SOBER

NOTE BY OC/ T: (#) AS RECEIVED. SERVICE ON REQUEST.

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